

## JEREMIAH 15:16

**THEME: Doctrine of Hell and Jesus – Is Jesus Really The Only Escape From Hell? (5 of 6)**

“Do you honestly believe that you are right and everyone else is wrong? That only Christians are in heaven and everyone else in the whole world is in hell?” This, of course, is the question I am most often asked when witnessing to those under 40. It is often accompanied by, “I don’t believe a loving God would send anyone to Hell.” My response is always, “Hey, don’t get mad at me. I am just sharing with you what God says from His holy Word. If it was up to me, I would not send your aunty to Hell. I would make a deal with you, you let my relatives out and I will let out yours. But it is not up to us, it is up to God and this is what God says.”

In the late 70’s my father entered Hell. His grandfather was a great Baptist evangelist, Southern Baptist Missionary, Seminary professor and founder of Clear Creek Baptist College in Pineville, Kentucky. His father was the editor of the Jackson Sun newspaper in Jackson, Tennessee and a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Jackson, Tennessee. My father, however, rebelled from this family heritage, rejected Christ, embraced humanism and died as described by God the Holy Spirit in *Ephesians 2:12* “...*separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*” From my perspective, those sins he committed against my mother, against my brother, against my sister, against myself, against his community and the world have been more than paid for. His life experience these 40 some years is described in *Revelation 14:10-11* “... *he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night...*” The problem with escaping an eternity in Hell, is that to do so one does not have to satisfy the capricious sensibilities of man but rather the wrath of the just and holy God. Many have feelings and convictions concerning how to escape from an eternity in Hell...

**An exemplary life here on earth;**

**A good life here on earth;**

**Abstaining from heinous crimes here on earth;**

**Ignorance here on earth;**

**Sincerity here on earth;**

**Devotion to a religion here on earth;**

**Adequate punishment / time served in Hell;**

**A relenting God who changes his mind.**

There is, however, only one escape from an eternity in the fires of Hell, that is accepting Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. No one can escape an eternity in Hell unless he personally accepts Christ as his Lord and Savior. God’s eternal wrath must be “satisfied” and that satisfaction can only be found in Christ’s substitutionary death on the cross. *Isaiah 53:11* “*As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.*”

The mistake that modern authors, theologians and liberal Christians make when talking about Hell is that their sensibilities mean nothing to God. What anyone believes God will or will not do is of no consequence whatsoever. God does not do what we believe, but rather we believe what God does as revealed in His holy, eternal, inerrant written Word. If we find ourselves questioning the justness of those without Christ, whatever the reason, spending eternity in Hell – then the problem is with our unbelieving rebellious heart, not with God. The question, “How could a loving God send anyone to an eternity in Hell?” Really begs another question-- a question buried beneath the first, unstated by the mouth yet stated by the heart to God, nonetheless – “If God can send people to Hell for eternity, then how can He be a good and just God?” To question what God does is to question what God is. We must never do either but rather embrace the revelation of the written Word of God – both what God does and who God is.

Rev. John S. Mahon

April – Lusaka, Zambia

**THEME: Doctrine of Hell and Jesus – Is Jesus Really The Only Escape From Hell? (5 of 6)**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 4:12**

Can anyone escape an eternity in Hell without accepting Christ as their personal Lord and Savior?

Who does and who does not go to Hell is not based on what we believe. God does not do what we believe, rather we believe what He does as revealed in the Word of God. What does God's Word say on this subject?

How will this reality affect your prayers of praise and thanksgiving? Your humility? Your witnessing?

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 13:24 – 30**

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 13:36 – 43**

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 24:31**

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 25:31 - 46**

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 14:6**

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 1:18 - 32**

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Timothy 2:1 - 5**

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 20:11 – 15**

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:15

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Revelation 20:11 – 21:8; 21:24 - 27

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